REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 12-22, 26-32, and 34 have been canceled to allow prosecution of claims 9-11, 23-25, and 33 (non-elected in the parent application due to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement). No new matter has been added.

With respect to the prior co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/664,719, Applicant hereby incorporates the claim of priority from Japanese Application No. 11-287776, filed on October 8, 1999, and claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

The prior application is assigned of record to International Business Machines Corporation, at Reel 011224, and Frame 0421.

Early and favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean M. McGinn

Registration No.: 34,386

Date:

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC

Intellectual Property Law

8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200

Vienna, VA 22182-3817

(703) 761-4100

Customer No. 21254